HL

Sept 7, 1966
80 Pine St.
New York, N.Y. 1000.

Dear Mr Weisberg:

I have by now, had the time to read your book thoroughly, as well as Epstein's, Sauvage's and Lane's books. I am sorry I missed seeing you on TV in New York, but a skeptical friend of mine saw the program and reported that you "ripped the opposition to shreds." As a result he has now borrowed your book and is reading it with a great deal less skepticism.

It seems to me timely for the Warren Commission or some other independent body, to reopen the case. Would it be possible for you, and mssrs Epstein, Lane, Sauvage and possibly some others to combine forces in presenting the arguments to Johnson for reopening the case?

The most significant possibility pointed out in your book for reopening the case, in my opinion, is the collection of photographs, especially the Altgens photograph, taken at or near the time of the assassination. I would think that a relatively simple and inexpensive test conducted in Dealey Plaza and using only 4 cameras and one car, could break the case wide open.

Altgens and the other photographers involved could be placed in their respective positions and

the car driven at the proper speed over the proper route. Each photographer could then take the same pictures he or she took on Nov 22, at the same timing. When the car reached the point where Altgens takes his photo it could be stopped and the position checked ~~out~~ until it matches the original photo.

Altgen's memory of where he was standing could be checked by the other photos in which he appears. The white stripes on the street plus the other objects in the original photo (in case the stripes have been repainted in the intervening three years) could be used to make sure the car is in the correct position. Altgen's testimony plus the the evidence in his photo should prove that the first shot had already been fired at this point.

With the stage of the test thus set, it only remains for observers and photographers in the car and in the sixth floor window of the Depository Building to sight each other and prove that the tree was between the window and the car. I assume, of course, that the growth of the tree in the three years can also be determined, and that neither the street or the building have been moved.

Have you been in touch with Altgens to discuss this possibility? Or has anyone? Does he still maintain that he took his photo after the first shot was fired? Of course, perhaps the Zapruder film could also be used to confirm the car's position at the time of Altgens photo. The men in Johnson's car could also be asked when they first opened the door of his car, since it is obvious the door is open in the Altgens photo.

Even if no one else would do it, you and Altgens alone could conduct this test, or at least enough of it to show that the tree was in the way at the time of the first shot.

How are the sales of your book coming?

Sincerely,
R. E. Sprague